



SHARON TOWNSHIP

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To: Local Government and Municipal Finance

Re: SB 429, 430, 431 (VOTE NO)
HB 4875 (VOTE YES)

Thank you, Madam Chairperson and Committee members, for the opportunity to speak on these bills today. My name is Peter Psarouthakis and I am the Sharon Township Supervisor, located in Southwestern Washtenaw County. I have served in this capacity since 2012 and also serve on our Mineral Licensing Board.

Sharon township is an agricultural community with many generations of farmers located there. Sharon Township has had gravel mining operations for over 20 years. Let me be clear, we are not anti-aggregate or NIMBY. In fact, we recently approved an expansion of an existing mining operation. Sharon Township is doing its part to help supply aggregate needs in Michigan.

However, the safety and well-being of our citizens and environment is paramount in all the things we do. The Senate bills before you would strip away our ability to keep our citizens and environment safe. Over the years our day-to-day ability to monitor operations have allowed us to quickly and efficiently address issues, yet keep the operations going once addressed. Things such as contaminated water testing wells, illegal mining in none permitted areas, encroachment on neighboring properties, dust issues, traffic issues are just a few issues that we handle immediately due to our living and working in the community we serve.

While EGLE may be a department with good intentions to attempt to regulate aggregate operations in the State, they do not have the resources or staffing to be on top of this important task on a day-to-day basis, unlike local government who are there every day.

We believe that the Senate bills before you are a recipe for disaster and urge you to vote NO on them. We do support the House bill before you as it keeps the safety and well-being of our citizens and environment in the hands of the community that is most impacted by these types of operations.

Respectfully,

Peter Psarouthakis
Sharon Township Supervisor

06/21/2022